



The Duke Ellington Society

TDES, Inc.

Celebrating the Music of Duke Ellington

Wednesday, December 19, 2007 at 7:30 PM
Saint Peter's Church—54th Street and Lexington Avenue

HOLIDAY CONCERT/PARTY: HARLAN JAMES AND FRIENDS

Harlan James, piano and organ

Rudy Lawless, drums

Cristian Rivera, congas

Tyler Schwartz, alto sax and bass clarinet

Anthony Coleman 2nd, trumpet

Ruth Brisbane, vocals

Photo of Harlan James
by Richard Ehrenzeller

Join us on December 19, and listen to Duke and Strays two ways. Harlan James, our current vice president, will lead an ensemble. **We will also celebrate the 100th birthday of Lawrence "Larry" Lucie**, "the gentleman of jazz guitar," who performed with Duke Ellington, Benny Carter, Fletcher Henderson and Louis Armstrong. He was the last living musician to have recorded with Jelly Roll Morton.

Part of the program will feature Harlan James on portable jazz organ; the other part will be devoted to Harlan on piano playing Latin jazz versions of Ellington and Strayhorn compositions. Joining him will be Rudy Lawless on drums in the first half of the program and Cristian Rivera on congas in the second half. Two TDES members—Ruth Brisbane, vocalist, and Tyler Schwartz on alto sax and bass clarinet—as well as Anthony Coleman 2nd on trumpet, will be performing in both parts of the evening's program.

Harlan has been an active player for decades, starting in the jazz scene in Chicago in the 1960's, later settling in New York; he has played in Latin bands as well. Ruth Brisbane, an internationally recognized jazz and blues vocalist, has performed in Broadway shows and her own one-woman show about Bessie Smith. Tyler Schwartz, a recent graduate of the New School Jazz program, has been playing at various clubs in the City since his undergraduate years. Anthony Coleman 2nd, a former Brubeck Institute Fellow, is in the New School's jazz and contemporary music program. The rhythm section includes Rudy Lawless, a veteran drummer who has backed up Betty Roche, Ellington's vocalist in the 1940's and 1950's, and Cristian Rivera, a prominent player with Bobby Sanabria's Latin jazz ensembles and the present-day version of the Xavier Cugat orchestra.

Harlan James joined TDES in 1995. He says that his membership has led him to a deeper understanding of the contributions of Ellington and Strayhorn. "I began working on many of their compositions with the intention of getting them under my fingers and into my head. I see the party on December 19 as an occasion to join my fellow performers in giving something back to the society."

MEMBERS FREE

NONMEMBERS \$20 DONATION

STUDENTS \$10 DONATION

Join TDES, Inc., for \$40 on December 19 and your membership will be extended through August 2009. Enjoy free concert/parties, refreshments, the newsletter, and monthly informative meetings with Ellington experts.

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